

2005 Annual Milk Production

Wisconsin's 1.24 million cows produced 22.9 billion pounds of milk in 2005, a 4 percent increase from 2004. Statewide, milk output per cow averaged 18,500 pounds, an increase of 704 pounds from a year earlier. The state's share of the national production remained at 13 percent, a level maintained since 2001.

During 2005, national milk production totaled 177 billion pounds, up 4 percent from a year earlier. Thirty-one states increased in production, while one state remained steady, and eighteen states decreased their milk output. Production per cow in the U.S. averaged 19,576 pounds per cow, 609 pounds above 2004, and 1,076 pounds above Wisconsin's average. The U.S. tallied 9.04 million head of milk cows on farms, up slightly from a year earlier.

During 2005, Wisconsin had 15,300 milk cow operations, a loss of 600 farms from one year earlier. Nationwide, there were 78,295 milk cow operations, a drop of 3,225 from 2004. A milk cow operation is defined as any place having one or more head of milk cows, excluding cows used to only nurse calves, on hand at any time during the year. Dairy farms licensed to sell milk in Wisconsin during 2005 averaged 15,100, down 470 farms from 2004. The U. S. total was 64,555 licensed dairy herds, a loss of 2,270 herds.

**Annual Milk Cows and Production
Major states and United States, 2004-05**

State	Milk cows 1/		Rate per cow 2/		Production 2/		Pro- duction % change 2005/04
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	
	Thousand head		Pounds		Million pounds		Percent
Wisconsin	1,241	1,236	17,796	18,500	22,085	22,866	+4
California	1,725	1,755	21,139	21,404	36,465	37,564	+3
Idaho	424	455	21,446	22,332	9,093	10,161	+12
Michigan	303	311	20,891	21,656	6,330	6,735	+6
Minnesota	463	453	17,499	18,091	8,102	8,195	+1
New Mexico	326	328	20,666	21,192	6,737	6,951	+3
New York	655	648	17,786	18,639	11,650	12,078	+4
Pennsylvania	562	561	17,904	18,722	10,062	10,503	+4
United States	9,012	9,041	18,967	19,576	170,934	176,989	+4

1/Average number during year, excluding heifers not yet fresh. 2/Excludes milk sucked by calves. Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Milk Cows and Production: United States, 1997-2005

Year	Milk cows 1/	Rate per cow 2/	Production 2/
	1,000	Pounds	Million pounds
1997	9,252	16,871	156,091
1998	9,151	17,185	157,262
1999	9,153	17,763	162,589
2000	9,199	18,197	167,393
2001	9,103	18,162	165,332
2002	9,139	18,608	170,063
2003	9,083	18,760	170,394
2004	9,012	18,967	170,934
2005	9,041	19,576	176,989

1/Average number during year, excluding heifers not yet fresh. 2/Excludes milk sucked by calves. Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Milk Production, Wisconsin, 2004-2005

State	Milk cows 1/		Rate per cow 2/		Production 2/		Pro- duction % change 2005/04
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	
	Thousand head		Pounds		Million pounds		Percent
January	1,245	1,235	1,505	1,515	1,874	1,871	n.c.
February	1,245	1,234	1,405	1,400	1,749	1,728	-1
March	1,244	1,233	1,510	1,560	1,878	1,923	+2
April	1,242	1,234	1,485	1,540	1,844	1,900	+3
May	1,242	1,234	1,560	1,630	1,938	2,011	+4
June	1,241	1,235	1,485	1,590	1,843	1,964	+7
July	1,240	1,236	1,520	1,600	1,885	1,978	+5
August	1,240	1,236	1,510	1,595	1,872	1,971	+5
September	1,239	1,237	1,440	1,510	1,784	1,868	+5
October	1,238	1,238	1,475	1,535	1,826	1,900	+4
November	1,237	1,238	1,415	1,480	1,750	1,832	+5
December	1,236	1,239	1,490	1,550	1,842	1,920	+4

1/Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/Excludes milk sucked by calves. Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

MILK PRODUCTION, Wisconsin 1950-2005

